

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19-20, 2014**

Prepared on October 14, 2014

**ITEM NUMBER: 23**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

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This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS [Kim Sanders 805/542-4771]**

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from August 8, 2014 – September 26, 2014

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received August 8, 2014 – September 26, 2014**

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District - Devin Best	8/11/2014	Toad Creek Cleanup Project	To improve flood water conveyance and remove invasive species in Toad Creek.	Templeton	San Luis Obispo	Toad Creek, Salinas River	0.83 acre	Withdrawn
San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Public Works - Dave Flynn	8/14/2014	Price Canyon Road Widening Project Phase II	To improve traffic safety and to provide access for bicycle travel.	Unincorporated San Luis Obispo County	San Luis Obispo	Pismo Creek, Pacific Ocean	0.034 acre	Under Staff Review
Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas - Michelle Gibbs	8/14/2014	Point Arguello Pipeline Company (PAPCO) Dig Site Project	To ensure the integrity of the PAPCO oil pipeline by excavating, inspecting, and potentially repairing an anomaly detected during routine maintenance inspections.	Calle Mariposa Reina	Santa Barbara	Unnamed tributary to Canada del Barro	0.02 acre	Under Staff Review
City of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works - Mark Dettle	8/22/2014	Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project	To provide the bridge with additional vertical support and resistance to lateral seismic forces.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz Harbor	0.0105 acre	Incomplete Application
Exxon Mobil Production Company - Mark R. Decatur	8/27/2014	ExxonMobil Santa Ynez Unit Offshore Power Cable Reliability-B Project	To enhance the reliability of the electric power distribution system to the SYU offshore facilities from the onshore generation facilities.	Las Flores Canyon	Santa Barbara	Coral Creek	0.02 acre	Under Staff Review
City of San Luis Obispo - Dan Van Beveren	9/2/2014	Broad Street Bank Stabilization Project	To replace a failing gabion structure upstream of the inlet to the existing Broad Street triple barrel concrete culvert system.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Old Garden Creek	0.094 acre	Under Staff Review

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department - Dave Flynn	9/8/2014	Huasna Road Repair Project	To improve public safety and stabilize the bank of Tar Spring Creek.	Arroyo Grande	San Luis Obispo	Tar Spring Creek	0.107 acre	Under Staff Review
Ambient Communities - Travis Fuentez	9/9/2014	Orcutt Area Specific Plan: Righetti Ranch and Jones Properties	To provide infrastructure improvements to support proposed residential developments.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Hansen Creek, Tanglewood Creek, Barranca Creek	0.11 acre	Under Staff Review
City of Carpinteria - Matthew Roberts	9/18/2014	Carpinteria Winter Protection Berm	To prevent winter time ocean wave flooding and damage to public and private improvements along Carpinteria City Beach.	Carpinteria	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	1.74 acres	Incomplete Application

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

**401 Water Quality Certifications Issued August 8, 2014 – September 26, 2014**

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature <sup>2</sup>	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works - Matt Johnson	8/26/2014	North Rodeo Gulch 4.75 Stream Bank Stabilization	To restore North Rodeo Gulch Road to two lanes and stabilize the adjacent stream bank.	Soquel	Rodeo Gulch Creek	N/A	0.117 acre
Zanker Road Resource Management, Ltd. - Greg Ryan	8/28/14	Z-Best Composting Facility Storm Drain Outfall Construction	To increase operational efficiencies at Z-Best Composting Facility by expanding the final processing and finishing operations into the 80-acre parcel to the east of the current operation in addition to building a detention pond with a storm drain outfall that will drain into riparian woodland adjacent to the Pajaro River.	5 miles southeast of Gilroy	Pajaro River	Y	0.05 acre
City of Santa Cruz Public Works Dept - Mark Dettle	9/4/14	Water Street Bridge Debris Removal Project	Remove 1,150 cubic yards of rubble and debris from under the Water Street Bridge.	Santa Cruz	San Lorenzo River	N/A	0.56 acre
California American Water - Julio Gonzalez	9/5/14	Panetta Well Blowoff and Drain Installation Project	To install necessary infrastructure in order to back-flush and clean-out the existing Panetta Well.	Carmel River	Carmel River	N/A	<0.01 acre
Templeton Properties, LLP - Will Tucker	9/5/2014	Creekside Ranch II - TR 2994	To improve channel flood capacity and enhance riparian processes, function, and habitat conditions.	Templeton	Toad Creek	N/A	1,085 linear feet
City of Santa Barbara - Karl Treiberg	9/5/2014	Protective Sand Berm at Leadbetter Beach	To lessen damage to the commercial area of the Harbor caused by winter storms.	Santa Barbara	Pacific Ocean	N/A	1.243 acres
White Rock Club - William G Dorey, President	9/12/2014	White Rock Lake Maintenance Project	To perform annual maintenance dredging of White Rock Lake associated with sediment build up while concurrently enhancing wetland and riparian areas.	Carmel	White Rock Lake, Black Rock Creek	N/A	1.225 acres

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature <sup>2</sup>	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
Santa Cruz Seaside Company - Kris Reyes	9/18/2014	Emergency Breaching of the San Lorenzo River Lagoon	To improve public safety and prevent flooding.	Santa Cruz	San Lorenzo Lagoon, Monterey Bay	N/A	0.10 acre
215 Bridge Street, LLC - Seth McCormick	9/24/2014	Tract 2560 Phase II, 215 Bridge Street	To provide access from Bridge Street to the future 19 lot residential and commercial planned development.	San Luis Obispo	Meadow Creek, unnamed tributaries to Meadow Creek & San Luis Obispo Creek	Y	0.013 acre
Monterey County Water Resources Agency - Elizabeth Krafft	9/24/2014	Salinas River Multi-Benefit Demonstration Project	To establish a flood risk reduction approach for a portion of the Salinas River.	Salinas River	Salinas River	N/A	137.4 acres
UCP Santa Ana Hollister, LLC - Michael Cady	9/25/2014	Santa Ana Road Widening / Culvert Extension	To widen Santa Ana Road and extend culverts to address projected 100 year storm event.	Hollister	Unnamed Tributary to Santa Ana Creek	Y	0.043 acre

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

<sup>[2]</sup> Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

### **City of Morro Bay Nitrate Study Update**

The City of Morro Bay's original consultant, Cleath-Harris Geologists, completed a work plan in August 2014 to collect additional groundwater chemistry data from City's supply wells, upgradient agricultural supply wells, and wastewater to further evaluate sources of nitrate in the City's supply wells. In addition to sampling and analysis for general minerals, stable isotopes of water, and caffeine, the work plan proposes to collect samples for sucralose. Sucralose, a common artificial sweetener, is reported to be very stable in groundwater and therefore acts as an indicator of wastewater discharges to groundwater.

The City hired another consultant, Fugro Consultants, to review the work plan, modify it as necessary, and conduct the work. The City indicated that Fugro started on the project on October 1, 2014, and will be employing a nitrogen fate and transport expert located in its Oakland office.

### **Groundwater Protection Section Case Closures** [John Robertson 805/542-4630]

Table 3 lists the closure performance for the Underground Tank and Site Cleanup Programs from July 1, 2013, through September 1, 2014.

Table 4 lists the individual sites closed since the start of the fiscal year.]

### **Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update**

The following information is to update the Board regarding implementation of Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011.

ILRP Activities at a Glance

- Growers were required to update their annual compliance form and eNOI by October 1, 2014. Other reporting requirements were also due, including total nitrogen applied forms and groundwater data reporting for some growers. At the time of this report development, staff had not yet assessed the compliance rate with these requirements. However:
  - We've received about 400 total nitrogen applied reports of the approximately 500 anticipated; more are still coming in. Several hundred were received in hard-copy, many emailed, and others sent using a PDF format that can be uploaded to a spreadsheet. Staff is currently checking each form for completeness before entering in electronic format for analysis.
- Good news for growers: Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (Preservation Inc.) is implementing a fee reduction in 2015 for growers participating in the Cooperative Monitoring Program; 2015 fees will be approximately 33% less than 2014 fees. Preservation Inc. will begin mailing invoices for the 2015 billing cycle in December 2014.
- Preservation Inc. submitted the 2013 Annual Monitoring Report on September 23, 2014. Staff was reviewing the report at the time of development of this report,
- Recall from the September 2014 Executive Officer's Report that staff had recently conducted tiering analysis. Many of the tier updates stemmed from a more refined analysis that assessed the distance from a field to a listed waterbody (see Provision 16.2b of the Ag Order). Staff sent tier update letters to about 400 ranch operators; most of the updates were from tier 1 to tier 2. Staff received many calls and emails from growers and consultants regarding: 1) whether the tier update was correct and 2) which requirements are due, and when. Staff reversed many of the tier updates after receiving more-refined information about field locations; about 60 of the tier updates have since been reversed. Staff advised growers and consultants that: 1) for growers new to tier 2, the annual compliance form will be due on January 1, 2015; 2) for newly assigned tier 2 and tier 3 high-risk growers, the total nitrogen applied form will not be due until October 2015, and 3) growers new to tier 3 who are required to conduct individual discharge monitoring will have a year to develop and get approved a SAP-QAPP. Other requirements were also discussed. In short, staff is allowing time before reporting requirements, for those affected by these new tier assignments, need to be submitted.

Items for Discretionary Review by the Regional Board

- The Ag Order identifies discretionary actions by the Executive Officer that are subject to review by the Regional Board. Staff has posted items subject to discretionary review at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) section of our internet site and will update it quarterly for review. We will notify interested parties of the updates through subscription to a lyris list.

Discretionary Review items include the following:

- Provision 11 - Approval or denial of a third-party project or program.
  - No new project or program to report.
- Part 2 of the MRP – Approval or denial of a cooperative groundwater monitoring programs.
  - No new groundwater monitoring programs to report.
- Provision 18 – Approval of a farm to transfer to a lower tier, or requirement of a farm to transfer to a higher tier.
  - Staff will post quarterly tier changes to the discretionary review portion of the ILRP website and will notify interested parties through lyris list subscription. At the time of development of this report, the item for discretionary review list had not been updated. Staff intends to update

the list in October 2014 and will advise the Central Coast Water Board of the update at the next board meeting.

Drinking Water Notifications

- Based on results of individual groundwater monitoring, staff continues to issue "Drinking Water Notification" letters to those growers and landowners whose domestic water supply wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate or nitrogen.
- As of October 10, 2014, the Water Board has issued approximately 117 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard – some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.

Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring - Central Coast Groundwater Coalition

- Staff continues to coordinate closely with the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) to implement cooperative groundwater monitoring program requirements. Staff met with CCGC staff on September 30, 2014, and again on October 1, 2014, to discuss alternatives for verifying drinking water notifications, in follow up to the July and September board meetings. Staff met with CCGC for the regular cooperative groundwater monitoring program coordination meeting on October 14, 2015, in Salinas.
- The CCGC issues drinking water notification letters for growers and landowners who are CCGC members. As of October 10, 2014, the CCGC issued approximately 194 drinking water notification letters to growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard – some farms/ranches have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances.

Outreach

- ILRP Manager Chris Rose and Ag Program staff Monica Barricarte participated in a workshop hosted by the Grower Shipper Association in Salinas on September 18, 2014. The workshop agenda centered on total nitrogen applied reporting. Chris and Monica participated in a question-and-answer session regarding total nitrogen applied, as well as questions pertaining to requirements for growers with newly assigned higher tiers.

Attachments

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures